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IOWA LIBRARY QUARTERLY

Issued by the Library Commission of the State of Iowa

A CIRCULAR OF LIBRARY INFORMATION

Edited by ALICE S. TYLER

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IOWA LIBRARY COMMISSION.

OBJECT: *To aid in the establishment and development of free and other public libraries in the State of Iowa.*

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This QUARTERLY is mailed *free* to all public libraries, and to trustees of free public libraries in the State of Iowa.

Township Extension of Libraries: Observations from Experience in Page County

WILLIAM ORR, TRUSTEE, CLARINDA PUBLIC LIBRARY.

In view of the far-reaching possibilities which it opens up, we believe that the Township Extension library law is the most important library legislation in the state since the original library act was passed. It authorizes township trustees and town councils in territory adjacent to a city having a free public library, to make a contract with the board of library trustees by which all the inhabitants of the township or town can have the same use of the library that the citizens of the city have, upon condition that they levy a tax not exceeding one mill on the dollar of the taxable value of all the property in the township or town, to be paid to the board of library trustees.

The contract entered into between the township or town and the board of library trustees brings the benefits of the library to all the citizens of the township or town on exactly the same basis as those residing in the city, and it also brings to the library the increased revenue so necessary to make the library a growing and useful institution. You will note that the tax does not have to be voted. The power is given the township trustees and the town council of incorporated towns to make the contract and levy the tax. Note further that the tax cannot exceed one mill on the dollar of the *taxable* value, not the actual value, but can be any less sum, as ¾, ½ or ¼ mill. Assuming ½ mill as an equitable basis for the average township, the amount of the tax would be about $150.00. If we suppose the city in which the free public library is located to be so situated that townships bordering on the four sides of that in which the city is located can be conveniently reached and that the township in which the city is located will also levy the tax, it would give the library an increased annual income of $750.00 in addition to the city levy. Should the four townships that corner with that in which the library is situated also levy the township tax, this would make $600.00 more; and if in these nine townships there should be five incorporated towns, each willing to make

the levy necessary to have the free use of the city library, with an average of $40.00 each, this would add $200.00 more, thus making the financial possibilities of an average library in a city of 5,000 population, or less, $1,550.00 annually, from Township Extension, in addition to the city levy. Supposing, however, that only one-half of this is realized, and that $775.00 should represent the financial returns from Township Extension, it would still give the library increased funds more than equal to the usual amount available for books, after the fixed expenses of the library are paid in a city of the size we are considering. This would practically double the capacity of the library in book purchases, and more than that, it would bring the benefits of the library to a large class of people who would appreciate them to a greater degree than the average dweller in our cities.

Our free public libraries are a part of our educational system, and those living in the remotest corner of our fair state, or the ones living miles from the nearest town or city, should have the advantages of this part of our educational system by means of State Traveling Libraries, free public libraries, township centers, and groups of books loaned to individuals where they are not within easy reach of a central library, just as much as the advantages of our system of schools through the common school, the high school, college and university, are made available throughout the state.

What then, is the duty of boards of library trustees in the premises? It is to work up the sentiment in the adjacent townships and secure the co-operation of the township trustees. This must be done by enlisting the prominent citizens of the township and getting them to work up the interest of their neighborhoods. Let them see that the township will gain the greatest benefit from such an arrangement, inasmuch as they secure, for the one-half mill levy, the same library privileges for which the town or city pays a three mill tax levy. If you succeed, the active agitation must come from the people living in the township and not from the library board. The library board, however, should urge certain residents of the township to become thoroughly posted so they can discuss the matter with their neighbors and with the township trustees, and can tell just what it will cost the average citizen, and know the number in the township who might have to pay as much as $1.50 or $2.00 annually. It will be found that in the average township there are very few who would have to pay such amounts. They should know how much the railroads and telegraph and express companies, and non-residents, would have to pay. Let them thoroughly understand the workings of the system, and how it will not only give them access to all the books in the library on the same terms that residents of the city have, but that they will be granted more liberal terms as to the time of returning the books. Show them that one or more centers may be maintained in the township where choice collections of books will be kept for their special benefit, which will be changed from time to time, and that books will be loaned to families remote from the library or from township centers, in small groups of five or more that may be kept a month with privilege of renewal.

Let the residents of the township know that if a club or society in any community wishes to make a special study of a subject, that the librarian will select the books necessary, if they are in the library, and if not, will procure them from the State Traveling Library for their special use, or for clubs, societies or neighborhoods. If farmers want to study any special subject, such as stock judging, stock breeding, soils, spraying or insect pests, the books will be supplied on the same terms. If three or four enthusiastic residents of any township are so informed they will arouse a sentiment which will lead the trustees of that township to make a contract with the library board without much further work on your part. If the residents of the township get the mistaken idea that the tax

is desired for the benefit of the city, the matter will not be accomplished, but let them see the benefits that will accrue to themselves and that it is the way by which a great central library can be built up in the county, and they will become as enthusiastic supporters of the plan as those who live in the city and are giving time, thought, energy and money to build up the library.

Our rural communities are coming to hold, not only in land values and stock, but in actual cash a large part of the wealth of our state, and in the future they will represent an ever increasing proportion of the intelligence and culture of the state. Our rural schools are likely to be so improved that instead of pupils coming from rural districts to the city or town, the parents will send their children from the town to gain the advantages of the schools in rural communities. The central school and the township high school are coming in Iowa. Have you ever considered that the ground on which to build a schoolhouse in our average city of 5,000 people would buy enough land in the country for an experiment farm and build and equip an industrial building where young people could be taught the practical things of life? Have you ever considered what a beautiful park, both useful and ornamental, could be provided about a central school at small cost, and what a center for township activities it could be made? With the advance in farm values, and the interest farmers are taking in scientific farming, rural life is taking on an entirely different aspect, and when the boys and girls come to realize that there are greater problems to be solved and as thorough education needed on the farm as in the city, then will be solved the vexed question of how to keep the young people on the farm. This can be helped in a great measure by means of the free public library, and by township library extension. When the young people living in the country have learned some of the great things that God has taught in soil and fertilization and climate, and the many things learned by a first hand knowledge of nature, they will seek to know what may be found on the printed page about these and other subjects.

What then is your duty, Mr. Library Trustee? It is to see that information along these and a hundred other lines is brought within easy reach of those needing it and hungering for it; beside, there are the possibilities of beauty in the country home where there is plenty of land for lawn, garden, shrubbery, grove, orchard, hedge, drives, ponds, and all the conditions that God has created for a beautiful world which should be conserved and developed, and there is a large literature on this subject. Landscape architecture will take the place of pig-sty and chicken yard, and in the years to come beautiful pleasure grounds will be found in the country and suburban towns, and our duty is to foster this by bringing books on all these subjects within reach of every farm house. You may ask, will they read the books when we place them within their reach by means of township extension? Yes, for it has been observed that they read a better class of books than the residents of our cities, and they are hungering and thirsting for the opportunity, and are ready to co-operate with us in this work, when they understand about it. Library trustees should wake up to the opportunities that are before them and do their duty or resign and let some one else carry on the work. The Township Extension movement is under way, and the free public libraries of Iowa should be actively interested in providing for the country dwellers within reach, by making these institutions stimulating centers for the entire county. The advantages to be gained to the public library, viewed as a city institution, is not to be overlooked in discussing township extension. Every library trustee realizes the difficulties and perplexities that are encountered in trying to build up a library and buy a sufficient number of books, after paying the fixed expenses, such as light, heat, salaries, etc., from the meager income provided by the mu-

nicipal tax levy authorized by law for library purposes. Trustees cannot be satisfied to passively provide for the fixed expenses, spend what is left for books, and quit there, for the institution must be developed and extended. Its greatest strength lies in having facilities and resources that provide a popular educational center, which is adequate to meet the demands of the community, and which shall rank next to the churches and schools in the esteem and pride of the community. The need for additional money is often so pressing that entertainments, lecture courses, and popular subscription are sometimes resorted to in order to supplement the income from the tax levy. It is therefore reasonable that library trustees should be interested in Township Extension, not only because its chief significance lies in the service that is to be rendered to those who dwell in the country, but also because it gives an opportunity to materially develop and strengthen the local institution by increasing its revenue.

When township co-operation is secured the right place must be selected for the distributing center in the township and the person in charge of the center must be enthusiastic and have a vision of the possibilities of the work. The books sent from the central library should be carefully selected. The people in the townships or towns should be informed regarding where the books are kept, and the conditions on which they are loaned. To do this a letter should be sent to every family in the township. They must be informed of their rights not only to the group of books at the township center, but the personal use of single books, if desired, directly from the library, and also that if remote from both of these, a small group of say, five or ten volumes, could be loaned for a month for family use, with the privilege of renewal by telephone. Inform them that all this comes because of the small tax they pay. People like to know, not only that they get what they pay for, but that they pay for what they get. Let them know that the librarian will be glad to help them make selection, and that books on subjects of study will be furnished them. They should know that a public library is maintained in order that people may have opportunity to secure any information they desire. Call their attention from time to time to any special feature of the library. In fact, use your head to keep them interested in the library, and you will not need to feel anxious lest at the end of the year the contract is permitted to lapse through the indifference of the township trustees.

In the city where the writer resides, a goodly part of this work has been done. Contracts have been made with four townships and the tax levy collected and paid to our library board, amounts to a trifle over $600.00. This money has been chiefly invested in books, many standard, popular titles having been duplicated. Five township centers have been established, and a choice collection of about 50 books has been placed in each center. A circular letter outlining the plan has been mailed to every family residing in these townships. The books are being read, and yet we feel that the real work has just commenced. It is no small task to get the residents of these townships to realize what the library movement in township extension means, and the far reaching benefit that they may secure from such extension if they will only ask for what they want. It is a campaign of education, and the writer hopes that it will not only go on here until every resident of the county knows and understands about the possibilities of Library Extension, but that it will spread to every township, village and hamlet of our beloved state.

American Library Association

The next Conference of the A. L. A. will be held at Mackinac Island, Mich., June 30th, the exact number of days not having yet been determined. The Grand Hotel with a capacity of about 800 guests will be headquarters and there is a large auditorium with a seating capacity of 1,000, with smaller rooms for section meetings.

Publicity, or Library Advertising

BY MISS LILLIAN B. ARNOLD, LIBRARIAN CARNEGIE-STOUT PUBLIC LIBRARY, DUBUQUE.

In taking up the subject of library advertising, there are two points to be constantly considered: First, that the books themselves are the all-important tools for all work connected with the library, and that it is to them we wish to call the particular attention of the public. Second, that all advertising to be successful must be gauged by the supply of books at our command and the demand which we feel ought to come as a natural result of that advertising. Unless the library has the right books and a librarian who is familiar with the resources of her library, all advertising is vain. First know your strength—then make an earnest endeavor to reach every man, woman, and child in the community and acquaint him with the library and help him to appreciate the fact that the books belong to him and are there for his use. Every effort should be put forth to make the library a center to which everyone will naturally turn whenever they "want to know." It is not enough to have *once* called attention to the library. Repetition is one of the fundamental principles of habit, and our desire is to get everyone into the library habit.

Of outside aids it is safe to say that the columns of the newspapers are the best of all ways for attracting attention especially of those who have never used the library. Librarians should make the acquaintance of newspaper editors, and if their support is not already enlisted it should be secured. Make friends with the reporters and encourage them to come to the library for news. Few librarians can afford to spend much money for printing, but as a usual thing the newspaper will gladly print free of charge material that is sent in. The well considered article in the daily paper is sure to reach most of the homes in the city.

Whenever possible, librarians should prepare their own material for publication. If it is concisely stated in readable form, in most cases copy will be followed. If there are several papers in the city, the same news should be a little differently phrased. If the morning paper is given preference one occasion, the evening paper should have it next. It is a good plan to find out the busy days at the newspaper office and plan library articles to avoid that time. It may be possible to have a certain amount of matter appear on certain days in a stated column, as for example, select lists or news notes as a part of Saturday's edition. People soon learn to watch for this and read it.

General items of book news, notes about new periodicals for the reading room, or interesting articles in the magazines, brief descriptions of valuable new government publications, monthly and yearly statements of circulation and news notes from other libraries are usually acceptable. Appeal to current interest in some question of the day or matter of local importance by printing short lists of books showing the resources of the library on these topics; also lists of books for use of clubs, on lecture topics, on musical programs, and for school work. These do not need to be new books but include the good old ones. Annotated lists are more readable; the note need not be long but should be made an indication of what the book actually contains. A short annotated list is much better than a long one without notes.

When sending a list to the newspaper a request to have the type saved for further use is often a good plan, as the type composing the list can be taken to a small job press and 250, 500 or 1,000 copies or more be printed on slips for the library's use. The only expense involved in this will be the cost of the paper and the presswork, which will generally amount to about $1.50 per 1,000 copies. Many newspapers are willing to perform this gratis for the returns which it brings.

Every library that can afford it should put out its own monthly or quarterly bulletin of new accessions, in some form for distribution, but this is an expense

and labor beyond the reach of the smaller libraries. Wilmington, Del., gets out 1,000 bulletins each month, showing accessions, at the very low cost of $8.00. This is done by having all material run in the daily papers free of charge and the type saved without cost of composition.

Even libraries which cannot afford regular bulletins can print occasional lists on timely subject for distribution at the library and it is a good plan to send such lists by mail to persons and organizations you know to be interested in the subjects referred to. Try sending a number of lists on books of practical interest to men to some of the factories with the request that one be inserted in the pay envelope of each employe. Take into consideration the seasons of the year and get out special lists on subjects in which people are interested at that time. In the spring, put out in a conspicuous place all the books on architecture, building, house plans, and designs for town and country homes; or those on gardening, both vegetable and flower, tree culture, etc. Printed lists may be kept on the delivery desk for distribution, and copies enclosed in the other books as they are given out for circulation.

Lists of books of interest to farmers are enclosed in packages at stores by the Burlington Public Library.

Special invitations to clubs or organizations to visit the library can be sent out also. One library sends out requests to members of the different labor unions to read the invitation before their meetings. The notice calls attention to the fact that the library is supported by taxation and that every citizen should feel perfectly at home there and secure for himself the utmost pleasure and benefit from its resources. It gives the names of the best newspapers and magazines to be found on file, states that books may be borrowed without charge, and gives the hours of opening for the library.

A library not long since sent out a slip bearing the following to a large list of people in the city who were not using the library. A copy was also furnished the newspapers:

LIBRARY WANTS.

"We want business men to call on us for statistics. We want railroad men to use our railroad books. We want mechanics to tell us what books we need for their study. We want taxpayers to see that we are a paying investment. We want mothers to come and see what we have for their children. We want teachers, ministers, newspaper men to depend upon us and inform us where we are lacking. We want more readers in our reading room daytime and evening. We want all residents to feel a pride and an interest in their library; to come to it for their books, or, if they buy their books just to see what we have and in every way to show a lively interest in it."

In order to inform strangers in the city, the library should have a standing notice in the amusement columns of the newspapers. Announcement cards may be hung in the street cars, railway stations, hotels and stores to show the location of the library and reading rooms, hours of opening, and the fact that all are welcome to its privileges.

The telephone may be used to notify readers that certain books of interest to them have been received at the library, or to call attention to recent magazine articles. Letters may be sent to students leaving school urging them to continue their education by means of the library. Mr. Ranck of the Grand Rapids Library gets from the Board of Education the names and addresses of all pupils who have finished the course in the public schools and personal letters are sent to all of these boys and girls explaining how the library may be of use to them.

The use of the Bulletin board has long been recognized as an important aid in attracting attention to the books and magazine articles on current events. However, it does not pay to spend much time in preparation. If possible subscribe to an extra copy of a well illustrated weekly periodical, cut the pictures out and tack them on the board with

thumb tacks. One of the best and quickest made bulletins is laid flat on the top of the delivery desk. A heavy card board is cut the size desired and on this are placed the pictures and reading list illustrating the subject to which attention is called. A piece of plate glass the same size as the card board is put on top, holding the material in place. This requires no pasting or change of mounting and is so conspicuous that anyone coming to the delivery desk cannot fail to see it.

The children are the best advertisers of the Children's room. Here as in all other parts of the work, the personality, sympathy, and tact of the children's librarian has great influence. Those who come to the room, can be made to feel so much at home and so welcome that they cannot refrain from telling their friends and schoolmates. If the librarian does her best to see that each child, while he has all possible liberty, takes home a book which is suited to his taste and ability to read, that child will come again and bring others.

Of inside aids to advertising the Children's room, the story hour is the strongest. The primary object of story telling to children is to develop their imagination, cultivate a taste for good literature and direct them to those books which they would not otherwise read if left to themselves. It is most desirable to have the story telling done by the children's librarian, as the children very soon come to connect the personality of the story teller with the books and the room, and it makes one more tie drawing them to the library.

For the older boys and girls library clubs have been found to be of great value in keeping up a lively interest in good reading. The meetings are usually devoted to the reading of special books or to debates and discussions.

All picture bulletins and exhibits attract the children. Notice should be taken of all patriotic anniversaries, birthdays of famous people, also inventions, different industries, recreations, etc. Our children's librarian has made out a calendar of important events of the different months of the year on a large card board, pasting illustrative material in the spaces of the dates on which the events occurred. This calendar has proved to be of great interest to the children. At present we are preparing for an exhibition in the Children's room of a selection of books suitable for Christmas as has been done in previous years. This not only advertises the library but also gives an opportunity to older people who buy books for children to see what is best.

Going outside of the library itself, a most important phase of library advertising lies in gaining the co-operation of the public schools. What is brought to their attention here is authoritative and carries greater weight with the children than perhaps anything else. In the class room practically every child whose presence is desired at the library can be reached and their attention gained. If the library habit is acquired in youth it is most likely to be permanent.

One of the duties of the librarian consists in visiting the schools and by entertaining and instructive talks interesting the boys and girls in the library and teaching them how to use it. At each of these visits a cordial invitation should be extended to every child to make use of the Children's room, either for recreation or study. A story after the invitation gives pleasure to the children and leaves them with a feeling that they have a friend at the library. Here also the teachers can be met and interested and their co-operation gained. This takes tact and sympathy on the part of the librarian, but is worth all effort it requires; for with the teacher enlisted the child comes to the library as a matter of course for information in connection with his school work.

If the opportunity offers, to speak at teacher's meetings, the librarian should grasp it, thereby placing the library, its books and uses, once more before those who can render such valuable aid. She should become acquainted with the teachers, know and sympathize with

their work so truly that they feel that she is their friend and helper rather than that she is adding to their already heavy work. When any of the teachers visit the library, they should be made to feel welcome and shown special attention and given special privileges.

Exhibits of any kind are good advertisers, and if well announced will draw people who would never otherwise come to the library. They should be well-timed and everything possible done to get them talked about. Get many people to contribute, for every one who assists in the slightest way will be more interested and will arouse interest among others. Many libraries have annual art exhibits which do a great good educationally as well as attract people to the library. Amateur photography, home made electrical devices, postal cards, Indian relics, arts and crafts, are only a few of the many topics which might be mentioned for suggestions. An exhibit of the art work done in the public schools will be found to be very popular and will serve a two-fold purpose by bringing the schools and the library together and attracting visitors who become patrons.

The experience of many libraries has proved that when books are made easily accessible the demand is largely increased. The advisability of suggesting the right thing or anything that is good has been illustrated through the increase in circulation of books on some particular subject when they are put out in a conspicuous place or have special attention called to them. Book exhibits may be planned for each month in the year with but little labor or time spent upon them and the increase in circulation will be surprising.

Perhaps the most valuable of all extension activities is the use of the lecture in connection with the library. This is a part of the work that ought not usually to fall upon the librarian, but should be undertaken by members of the board or a small committee of citizens. The librarian can find plenty of employment for her spare time in providing material for study for the lecturer, and in gathering together and advertising her literature on the subject to be presented. She will often find it necessary to order new books to supplement her material in order to have the best and latest information on the subject treated.

There is a wide field for lecture work in connection with the library and an endless variety of popular subjects to choose from. Mr. Hutchins tells of a series of lectures given in the Madison, Wis., library during the past year. Some of these talks were given by professors in the University, but a number were presented by citizens who had no connection with any educational institution. He says: "Illustrated lectures on some subject of general interest have given delight to workmen, clerks, students, business men and boys. An hour's talk on the mechanism, the care and use of the gasoline engine was heard by more than one hundred eager, earnest men, who not only listened intently but asked questions and remained after the lecture to discuss intricate points and to enquire about books that could be consulted. . The prevention and cure of tuberculosis, wireless telegraphy, the dangers in our milk supply, are others of the practical subjects treated. Another series is especially intended for people managing shops, stores or factories and their office forces. These lectures are generally illustrated and include presentations of the latest time saving devices, methods of filing, adding machines, the loose-leaf ledger system, accounting, cost of production in factories, advertising and salesmanship. They have proved a great help to ambitious young people and are eagerly anticipated by a class of young men and women who had felt somewhat helpless before good opportunities."

In every community there are people interested in special work many of whom would be glad to come to the library and talk—if they were asked. In starting such work it is a good plan to find out the people who have hobbies and call upon them to come to your assistance. Ask the head machinist of the shops, and

the foremen of the factories, to give practical talks on technical subjects. The Waterloo library has been very successful along this line. When possible, arrange to have the University Extension lectures held in the library. The lecturer who can and does help us in our work is the one who gives out his knowledge in such a way as to open the eyes of the readers and make them see how much pleasure is to be got out of some forms of reading or study, and who will inspire them to follow out the course of reading suggested by the lecture.

The new development, complementary to the lecture, is the library reading or book talks. It is based upon the idea that just as you can popularize books by talking about them, so you can attain the same end by reading from them. Such readings may all be on a single subject or from a certain book or from some one author's works and are planned primarily to convince the "average reader" that in many books in which he never even looks, there is matter which is just as interesting as the last "new book" he has finished. Every community has its Dickens lover, or devotee of Thoreau, someone especially interested in Scott, Burns, or George Eliot. Why not experiment by asking one of them to give a reading from his favorite books? If you know of someone especially interested in astronomy, plan for a reading on the stars and ask him to give selection from such books as Serviss—Astronomy with an opera glass, or, Astronomy with the naked eye. Flammarion—Wonders of the heavens. Milham—How to identify the stars. Newcomb—The stars. Herschel—Outlines of astronomy. It is easy to see how these readings may illustrate literature and with some labor and thought expended upon their preparation it will be found that they are equally valuable in illustrating and directing attention to works of science, history, biography, useful arts, and almost any other subject. Good lecturers may not be plentiful; but there is hardly a place without acceptable readers, and every library has on its shelves the material for an endless series of such readings.

The auditorium is one of the best assets of a library in getting people to come. The room should be open for the use of all meetings in connection with any of the civic, cultural, and educational activities of the town. However, in most medium sized libraries the income is not large enough to permit allowing the free use of the room. The ideal plan would be to be able to invite all organizations having for their aim mutual helpfulness and improvement to hold their meetings in the library and in this way have the room in use regularly several nights in each week.

The wide-awake librarian will study conditions in her own community and specialize to a certain extent according to these conditions. She will be quick to seize upon every opportunity that presents itself in an effort to bring the library into notice, constantly keeping in mind the fact that advertising is but a means to an end—that of teaching the people to read the best.

Library Funds and Balances

Careful management of the resources of the library by the library trustees is absolutely necessary in order that the meagre income from the tax levy may be made to cover the running expenses and provide for book purchases sufficient to strengthen the collection each year, not only in new books but in the standard old books. It is therefore not to be wondered at that the necessity for frugality is sometimes overemphasized by library boards, and that some trustees take a pride in carrying over a fair "balance on hand" at the beginning of the year, when the report of the library board is presented to the city council as the law requires.,

The question arises as to the effect which the carrying over of a considerable balance is likely to have on city and town councils, and it seems well to call the attention to the experiences of certain libraries in this connection. The library at A. was managed in a most conservative way; little or no money was

spent in improving the appearance and convenience of the library building, although it was granted that the floor ought to be covered with cork carpet to reduce the noise, and that the grimy walls should be tinted. It was thought best, however, to establish with the mayor and council, some of whom were not in hearty sympathy with the library, a reputation for good management and frugality; hence a balance of over $400 was shown at the end of the calendar year. Result: the tax levy was reduced by the council the ensuing year from 3 mills to 2 mills annually, their conclusion being that so much money was not needed for library maintenance, else there would not have been so large a balance.

The larger town or city of W. had a library board imbued with a similar spirit, and in its desire to protect the interest of the taxpayer and give tangible evidence of prudent management, it was deemed impossible to increase the librarian's salary even slightly, or provide an additional assistant, although the character of the work was unquestionably good, and the circulation of the library had increased 50 per cent within the three or four years since the librarian's salary had been fixed by the board, to say nothing of the increased cost of living. Consequence: the resignation of an efficient librarian, and the consequent crippling of the work until the new appointee had become proficient; but a handsome balance to be shown the city council at the end of the year amounting to almost $700.00, which logically led that body to reduce the tax levy for the ensuing year.

Such experiences naturally suggest the question,—is it "good business" to carry over a balance in the library fund at the end of the year? Unless for very special reasons, no; not only because of the effect suggested by these incidents, but chiefly because the libraries need the expenditure of every cent available each year that the tax levy brings in for maintenance, unless there is some great emergency. If these institutions are to be developed and the book collections strengthened, there is need for the full amount and more, which our state law allows to be levied for library purposes, viz., 3 mills for towns of 6,000 population and under, and 2 mills for the larger cities. It is futile to indulge in petty economies and persuasive balances in an attempt to conciliate uncertain councils when the library itself is by this policy being operated on a basis that does not command the confidence and respect of the people who maintain it by taxation. It is of the utmost importance that the library board should have the support and co-operation of the city council, and it is much more likely to be obtained by a broad-minded progressive policy than by an apologetic and scrimping one. An institution in which both council and citizens can take a pride is much more likely to receive generous financial support than one which presents a shabby appearance and bears evidence of undue economy. Tidiness and cleanliness in the appearance of the building, frequent additions of a few new books, and alert and obliging librarians, may exhaust all the funds at the disposal of the library trustees, but will be worth more to the institution than a handsome balance at the end of the year. There are, of course, special needs and emergencies that make it necessary for the trustees to accumulate funds for some special purpose, but it is much better for this to be accomplished, and the expenditure made before the close of the year rather than to take the risk of reporting a large balance.

A budget and expense blank furnished by the Library Commission provides an admirable basis for keeping account of the amount available for the various purposes from month to month, and with this estimate made at the beginning of the year, and the judicious expenditure of the amount available in each fund throughout the year, the funds should be apportioned so nearly accurately in advance as to make it unlikely that under ordinary circumstances a balance of any considerable sum shall be carried over into the new year.

Library News of the State

Boone.—Hon. C. J. A. Ericson, President of the Library Board of Boone, has gone on a trip around the globe, having sailed from San Francisco in February. He will be gone about six months.

Cedar Rapids.—The resignation of Miss Harriet A. Wood as librarian of the Cedar Rapids Public Library takes effect April 1st. Miss Wood has been closely identified with the work of the Iowa Library Association, having served most acceptably as President last year, and has a wide circle of friends throughout the state. Miss Wood came to Iowa from the Cincinnati Public Library, in 1901 as head cataloger at the State University Library at Iowa City, and was associated with the Summer Library School work for several sessions in various capacities. She became the librarian at Cedar Rapids in 1903 at the time the erection of the Carnegie library building was in process, and has maintained the high standards of that library and developed new lines of work most successfully through the untried experience of adapting the library management to the Commission plan of city government.

Miss Wood resigns to accept a position as head of the work with schools in the Portland, Oregon, Public Library, now a county library, and makes the change because of the recent removal of her entire family to the Pacific Coast.

Miss Mary Douglas, who was at one time on the staff of the Cedar Rapids Public Library, has been elected Superintendent of the work with children in the St. Louis Public Library. She goes to this responsible position from the New York Public Library where she has been assistant to Miss Annie Carroll Moore for several years. Previous to this she received her training at Pratt Institute and the Pittsburgh Carnegie library and before leaving Iowa was a student in the Iowa Summer Library School. Her friends in Iowa welcome her return to the Middle West in this important position.

Denison.—The interest of the children in the story-hours given by Miss Edna Lyman, February 16th, was keen and in the evening an equally interested audience of grown people listened to Miss Lyman's address on "Our Responsibility for what children read."

Des Moines.—Library Commission.—Miss Caroline V. Langworthy, who has been the Organizing Assistant with the Library Commission since September, 1908, has resignel her position to accept the librarianship of the Carnegie Public Library at Fort Smith, Ark. Her new duties began March 1st. This is one of the flourishing cities of the South West with an attractive Carnegie library building.

Dubuque.—A model of a sailing ship has been presented to the library by Mrs. John Harper and is an object of keen interest in the children's room. It is an exact reproduction of a three-masted sailing ship with masts, rigging, lifeboats and every detail and measures about sixteen inches in length.

Fort Dodge.—Mrs. J. M. Carpenter, who has served as librarian of the Fort Dodge library for fifteen years, has resigned her position in order to be relieved of the increasing responsibilities of an administrative position. Upon her recommendation, Miss Charlotte E. Goetzmann, who has been connected with the library for several years as cataloger and general assistant, was elected librarian. Mrs. Carpenter will remain with the library for a time as reference librarian and will maintain her interest in the work of the library which she has seen grow from a small beginning into the large collection of books, housed in a handsome building. Miss Goetzmann is an Iowa woman whose library training was obtained at the Albany Library School.

Miss Edna Lyman, Advisory Chil-

dren's Librarian, spoke at Fort Dodge to the teachers and parents on "Responsibility for what children read," on the evening of February 8th, and in the afternoon gave two story-hours for children in the grades of the public schools.

Grinnell.—The resignation of Miss Flora F. Carr as librarian of the Stewart Public Library of Grinnell took effect February 15th, at which time Miss Carr entered upon her new position in one of the branch libraries of the Pittsburgh library system. Miss Carr will also take certain lectures in the Pittsburgh Training School for Children's Librarians in connection with her work. Miss Edna Sears of Marshalltown, is temporarily serving as librarian at Grinnell. Miss Carr went to Grinnell from Charles City and has filled the position most acceptably for the past two years and the Board accepted her resignation with reluctance.

Humboldt.—The first anniversary of the opening of the Public Library was celebrated by a "Library Day" program, February 9th. Miss Lyman, Advisory Children's Librarian for the Library Commission, spoke in the afternoon to parents and teachers on "Responsibility for what children read" and she also conducted two story-hours for children with the co-operation of Miss Shellenberger, the librarian. Much interest was manifested by citizens and since that date one generous man gave $50 to be used for the purchase of children's books and a benefit entertainment netted about $75 to be used for the same purpose.

Jefferson.—Miss Edna Lyman visited the Public Library February 11th, on behalf of the Library Commission, in her work as Advisory Children's Librarian. She spoke to teachers and others, and also gave a story-hour for the children.

Maquoketa.—The Boardman Reference Library, is housed in the Carnegie Public Library building, but is a distinct institution, with separate directors who have charge of the book endowment fund bequeathed by W. C. Boardman. Each year they offer a prize for the best thesis written by the seniors of the High School. These essays are placed on the shelves of the library and entered in the catalog, so that it is really an honor prize. An entertainment is given in a hall on Mr. Boardman's birthday and the prize essays read. The chief value is in the research work done by the students in preparation.

Missouri Valley.—Miss Edna Lyman visited the Public Library, February 17th, on behalf of the Library Commission, addressing teachers and others and conferring with the Library Trustees regarding the work with the children. In the afternoon the story-hour was given to the children at the Opera House.

Steps are being taken to secure the lot for the erection of the Carnegie Library building which is much need.

New Hampton.—The dedication of the new Carnegie building of the New Hampton Public Library occurred February 4th. Exercises were held in the evening at the Opera House an address was made by Prof. G. A. Oliver, one of the trustees, and a sketch of the history of the library given by Mrs. G. M. Bigelow, one of the founders. The President of the Board, Mr. Timothy Donovan, reported for the Building Committee and formally turned over the building to the city, which was accepted by an appropriate speech by the Mayor of the city, W. G. Shaffer. Miss Tyler, Secretary of the Library Commission, gave a brief address.

During the afternoon the building was open for inspection and many availed themselves of the opportunity of examining it and expressed satisfaction with its convenience and beauty. The building cost $10,000, and is completed and furnished within this amount with a few dollars balance. A fine spirit of co-operation is manifest in the work of the Board and citizens and the three young women who have

contributed their services as librarians, —Misses Grimsby, Powers and Porter,— will continue in charge in the new building.

Onawa. — "Library Day" was observed on the seventh anniversary of the opening of the Public Library, February 18th, by a program in the evening at which Miss Edna Lyman, Advisory Children's Librarian, spoke. Through the interest of the Art Club, which has always co-operated closely with the Library, story-hours were conducted for the children by Miss Lyman, with the assistance of the librarian, Miss Wiley.

Osage.—After a delay of almost five years, the offer of Mr. Carnegie of $10,000 for a library building for Osage has been revived and accepted and a desirable lot has been secured. The building will be begun this spring.

Ottumwa.—A receptacle or case for the preservation of curios and relics of historical value has been placed in the public library by Cloutman Post, G. A. R. J. C. Felger, through the G. A. R., has also placed in the library bronze tablets inscribed with Lincoln's "Gettysburg Address" and his "Farewell Address at Springfield."

Perry.—The observance of "Library Day" was held for the first time by the Perry Public Library February 21st, with stories to two groups of children in the afternoon by Miss Edna Lyman and in the evening an address by Mr. Johnson Brigham to adults on "Literature and life."

Sac City. The library question will be again voted on at the spring election and the Library Association which is now maintaining the library is active in work for a tax. Miss Edna Lyman, the Advisory Children's Librarian, for the Library Commission, gave an address on the evening of February 4th to arouse public interest, and also gave two story-hours for the children in the afternoon.

Waterloo.—The public library was open New Year's day especially for the mechanics of Waterloo, printed invitation slips having been sent them through the shops the previous week. Some fifty or sixty men, not heretofore patrons, came, many of them with the direct question, "What have you on my line of work?"—steam boilers, gas engines, machine design, carpentry, metal work, telephony, etc. Valuable suggestions were made by the men as to books and magazines that would be of use to them.

Webster City.—The decision of the Iowa Supreme Court exempting the lands owned by the Kendall Young Library from taxation will save for that institution several hundred dollars each year which can now be used for maintenance. It was a decision hanging on the question of whether or not a public library is an educational institution.

Woodbine. The new Carnegie building for the Woodbine Public Library was dedicated March 9th with a program at the Christian Church in the evening, participated by several speakers from Woodbine and Logan, and by the Secretary of the Library Commission. M. A. Reed, the President of the Library Board, formally presented the building to the city, the acceptance being by the Mayor, C. J. Tuttle.

During the forenoon the children were received at the library by grades and were entertained with stories and in the afternoon the schools of Boyer Township were entertained. Later in the afternoon the presentation was made of two flags by the Woman's Relief Corps and two pictures by the Ladies' Reading Circle and a clock by the Civic Improvement Society.

The building is an attractive brick building costing $7,500, and is conveniently arranged. Within two years the tax has been voted and the library started, a collection of books, however, having been available for public use through the work of a Library Association. Boyer Township in which Woodbine is located promptly levied a township tax and has co-operated with Woodbine in securing the building.

Farmers' Rest Rooms

BY MRS. F. F. FAVILLE, TRUSTEE, PUBLIC LIBRARY, STORM LAKE, IOWA.

Farmers' rest rooms—there is magic in the very name!

There was a time when farmers and farmers' wives were supposed not to have such words as "rest" in their vocabularies, but the farmers of Iowa have become so progressive and independent that they are able to join the great concourse of rest seekers.

We hear so much in these strenuous times about Rest Homes, Rest Rooms and Rest Cures, that I am sure no one will question the advisability of Rest Rooms for farmers and farmers' wives; but whether the Public Library is the best place to have such a room is the problem that interests library trustees.

I presume that conditions are much the same in other farming communities in Iowa as they are around Storm Lake; but you will pardon me if I say that I doubt if you can find anywhere in the United States outside of Iowa, farmers and farmers' wives as progressive, contented, intelligent and happy as they are right here.

When President Roosevelt asked the question as to how to better the conditions in the farmers' homes, we in Iowa could not appreciate that there was any need of bettering conditions. Some of us felt that as far as we were concerned we would like to better the conditions by having the farm to live on. When the application of approved scientific methods, the putting of "brains into farming," has brought Iowa farm lands to a valuation of $100 to $150 an acre, we must realize that the farmer has become an intelligent and progressive citizen. The point I wish to make is this: that we do not need to furnish rest rooms for farmers because they are not able to do so for themselves, but the rest room is of mutual benefit to the business man of the town and the farmer who trades in the town.

Do not think for one moment that the rest room is a charity. The farmers who patronize the rest room would resent such an insinuation, and they would have a right to. The merchant receives as great a benefit from such an institution in the town as does the farmer.

In September, 1906, Storm Lake dedicated a small Carnegie library. This building is very much like similar libraries in small cities.

It was a matter of conjecture when the building was planned as to whether it would be advisable to have a rest room in this building. After three years of trial the library trustees are convinced that they made no mistake in deciding to provide a rest room.

Fortunately the site for the library building is centrally located, opposite the courthouse square, and within one block of the main business portion of the town. A room in the basement that could be properly heated and lighted was set apart for use as a rest room. It has an independent outside entrance, and toilet and dressing room opening out of the main room. It also has an inside connection with the library proper. When the library was completed and the rest room ready for the furniture, the Library Board apprised one or two active, wide-awake farmers who lived near the town, that the rest room was at their disposal, and they immediately appointed committees in all the surrounding townships to solicit funds for the furnishings. About two hundred and fifty dollars was needed to furnish the rooms to correspond with the other furnishings of the library. A nice rug, tables, easy chairs, and a leather couch were purchased. The dressing room has a lavatory, soap, towels, combs, brushes, mirrors, waste paper baskets, etc.

The use of this comfortable rest room is free to all the farmers and their families. They feel much freer about using the rest room, and a much greater interest in it, because they furnished it themselves. They feel that it really belongs to them. The merchants of the town could have well afforded to have equipped this rest room for their rural customers, had not the farmers pre-

ferred to do it themselves. The rest room is a convenient meeting place for the farmers' families of neighboring districts. It is a place where the young gentlemen may leave his young lady to arrange her toilet while he puts away his horse and buggy or automobile—for I would have you know that a great many farmers in our community ride in automobiles. Instead of being compelled to wait in a restaurant or the repulsive office of a livery barn, the young lady can wait here in comfort till her escort has secured his conveyance, and start for home with warm wraps, after the theatre or lecture.

It is a convenient place for the farmers' wives to meet and have lunch together when shopping in town.

As a good illustration of the practical value of such a place I would say that during the Farmers' Institute held in Storm Lake, the farmers' wives attended the course in Domestic Science, and spent the intermission at the noon hour at this rest room, and found it almost indispensable to their comfort.

During a series of evangelistic meetings it was in constant use by people from the country.

The mother of small children finds the rest room a great convenience. She can here care for her family of little ones while waiting for the father to finish his business in town. It is better for the mother, and better for the merchant not to have to convert the dry goods and grocery stores into nurseries.

At the holiday season when the stores are crowded to their full capacity and much time is required at the bargain counter, the mother relishes the experience of leaving her small children in the comfortable rest room with an older member of the family, or a matron, while she does her shopping untrammeled.

In towns the size of Storm Lake there are usually no such conveniences as toilet and dressing rooms for young ladies who are employed in stores and offices, except in connection with hotels. They need such a place, and share it equally with the women from the country.

Such a rest room, with all its conveniences, cannot help bringing the farmers and their families into closer touch with the library. The Library Board at Storm Lake have granted the use of the library and books absolutely free to the country people on the same basis as the citizens of the town. While waiting in the rest room the farmer's family has recourse to all the books, magazines and daily papers in the library.

The Storm Lake library has a room, similar in size and location to the rest room, set apart for the use of the club women of the town. But if both a women's club room and a rest room cannot be provided, the rest room is of greater importance, because the club women can better provide a meeting place than can the farmers' wives.

One serious problem that the Board of Trustees in Storm Lake has had to solve has been that of proper plumbing. The children have been careless about throwing paper, orange peelings, string, etc., into the pipes, and not having a very good system of drainage these pipes have given a great deal of trouble. These defects will, however, be entirely eradicated when Storm Lake is provided with a sewer system adequate for such public buildings. This problem will not concern those towns where a sewerage system is established.

The rest room to be a real success should have a matron, as it should be kept open more hours than is necessary for the library proper to be open. We have found it impossible to leave the room open unless some caretaker is present in the building, as the town children are apt to collect here after school, and the young people of the town make it a sort of rendezvous in the evening.

In some towns a lunch counter has been provided, and I am sure that such a convenience is desirable if properly managed.

The state law now provides for townships to have the free use of the

public library in an adjacent town if the township trustees will levy a small tax, and it seems to me that when this law shall be made effective many desirable things might be provided for a rest room.

The trustees of the Storm Lake library feel that they have made mistakes, but they have been of small concern in comparison with the good accomplished, and none of them have been of so serious a character that they may not be obviated under different conditions. We feel that the rest room is no longer in the experimental stage, but all the details of management are not perfected.

Our State College has been and is doing a wonderful work for agriculture in Iowa. The Iowa farmer has at his hand the very best facilities to educate him in the line of his profession. He and his family must not, however, be educated solely to know how to "make two blades of corn grow where one grew before," but must have every reasonable facility for a broader culture and a higher education. No single instrumentality can contribute so largely to this desired result as the public library.

The very best way to get the farmers interested in the public library is by providing a rest room that they can call their own and feel free to use at any time.

There is no trouble in interesting the country people in the library if they are only allowed the same privileges as the town people. In this day of women's clubs almost every farming district has its progressive women who are banded together in some sort of a society for mutual improvement. One of the finest clubs in our county is comprised of farmers and their wives. They meet in their respective homes during the long winter evenings, and discuss topics of interest. Surely there can be no question as to the value of a library and rest room to the farmers and their families in such a progressive community.

In her annual address before the State Library Association the President said we should make the library a center for music and art in the town, as well as an educational center. If we can have the rest room in the library and by this means interest the farmers in the library and all that it stands for in the community for enlightenment and progress, if we can secure their co-operation in this great work, we shall see our beloved Iowa lead the Middle West and our people continue to progress and be happy in the things that make for good.

Above all, let us share our libraries with the country people, for "there is that that scattereth yet increaseth, and there is that which withholdeth more than is meet, and it tendeth to poverty."

Iowa Library Association

OFFICERS.

MR. IRVING B. RICHMAN, *President*, Muscatine.

MISS VINA E. CLARK, *Vice-President*, Ames.

MRS. FLORENCE G. ANDERS, *Second Vice-President*, Iowa Falls.

MISS LILLIAN B. ARNOLD, *Secretary*, Dubuque.

MR. J. W. RICH, *Treasurer*, Iowa City.

The Executive Board of the I. L. A. met in the Library Commission rooms at Des Moines, February 3d. Those present were, the President, Mr. Richman, Mrs. Anders, Miss Arnold, Mrs. Dailey, Miss Wilson and Miss Tyler.

It was the unanimous vote of the Board that the next annual meeting, October, 1910, should be held in Davenport and a strong program will be prepared for that meeting. The district chairmen and the place for district meetings this spring were selected as follows:

Northwest District, Mrs. F. F. Faville, Storm Lake, Chairman; place of meeting, Clarion. Middle West District, Mrs. M. H. Bangs, Carroll, Chairman; place of meeting, Ames. South West District, Miss Sarah Palmer, Red Oak, Chairman; place of meeting, Chariton. South East District, Mrs. Florence G. Anders, Iowa Falls, Chairman; place of meeting, Waterloo. Middle West District, Mrs. Charlotte V. Bryant, Newton, Chairman; place of meeting, Newton.